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H. Van Buskirk

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Van Buskirk's Netted Rock

CANTALOUPE SEEDS

THE SWEETEST CANTALOUPE EVER GROWN

Scene on H. Van Buskirk's Netted Rock Cantaloupe Ranch, Rocky Ford, Colo., Headquarters of the Cantaloupe Industry of the World.

THE ROCKY FORD CANTALOUPE.

This delicious, sweet and fragrant delicacy has grown in popular favor for the last ten years until at the present time its demand in every state of the United States and Canada is so great the supply, when properly distributed, is so small that many people scarcely get a taste of them.

FALSE IDEAS.

Many people have the idea that all cantaloupe seed shipped from Rocky Ford Colo., are alike and will produce the same kind of a cantaloupe. This is not the case. Fifteen-sixteenths of the seeds shipped from Rocky Ford are not worth the freight charges. They are cut from culls, slicks, deformed and green cantaloupes, therefore will not produce a good cantaloupe, and the germinating qualities are so poor it will require three pounds of such seed where one pound of good seed would be sufficient; and, when you get the poor, sickly-looking cantaloupe that these cheap seeds produce, you haven't a Netted Rock Cantaloupe. They are no more alike than a Red Jonithan apple is like a wild green crab apple.

Five Years to Perfect.

For five years I have been at work on the Van Buskirk's Netted Rock Cantaloupe, and now claim to have the most perfect Cantaloupe yet produced. The Netting on this Cantaloupe is very coarse and strong, completely covering the entire melon. The flesh is extra thick and of a beautiful pinkish tint, fading to a delicate apple green. The cavity is very small, and by sugar test they beat the ordinary Cantaloupe 10 per cent.

How I Save My Seeds.

I go to my ranch, select the finest shaped and heaviest all over netted cantaloupes my field grows, lay them to one side, and have ladies cut them, take out the seeds, wash them the same day the melon is cut and dry them in the shade. I think that drying the seeds in the shade makes them germinate better and makes the young plants stronger and healthier. Therefore I know that everyone of the seeds I cut are Netted Rock Seeds.

My Cantaloupe Field.

is well covered with four-year-old fertilizer from my sheep pens. This insures a strong, vigorous plant, and the strong, vigorous plant produces the healthy, well netted, sweet, fragrant, and delicious Netted Rock Cantaloupe. Like begets like, and what the cantaloupe does not possess it cannot impart to its seeds.

Booking Orders.

My present supply of Van Buskirk's Netted Rock Seeds is about exhausted. If you do not get your order to me in time for this season, I will book it for next season. I shall grow about twenty acres this year for seed.

Samples.

Anyone wanting a sample of my Netted Rock Seeds to grow, will receive the same upon receipt of 4 cents in postage stamps.

Shipping Qualities.

What makes a Cantaloupe a good shipper? I will tell you and no man can truthfully deny it.

A good shipping Cantaloupe is one that is thoroughly covered with a coarse heavy netting, that has extra thick flesh, a very small seed cavity, and well buttoned on the nose end. The close netting, thick flesh and small cavity make it solid, hard and firm, and these essentials cause the cantaloupe to stand up firm and hard on the market from 24 to 48 hours longer than the poorly netted, thin fleshed, large cavity cantaloupe.

A Test Case.

From my Wietzer ranch last September I selected a Netted Rock, from my Grand Valley ranch a Green Stripe and Netted Gem and from my Fair View ranch an ordinary Rocky Ford Netted Gem, all picked from the vine the same day and as near the same ripeness as the eye could judge. These melons were placed on a shelf in the shade on my porch and on the third day they were examined. the Netted Rock was hard and solid and standing up and holding its shape while the others were soft and spongy; on the fifth day the Netted Rock was firm, hard and solid while the others were rotten; on the fifteenth day the picture on this sheet of the Netted Rock was taken and it was still firm.

Will The Netted Rock Sell For More on The Market Than The Ordinary Rocky Ford Cantaloupe.

Yes, they will, and I will tell you why. You can pick a crate of the ordinary cantaloupes and a crate of the Netted Rock the same hour in the day, pack them the same hour, put them in the same refrigerator the same hour, land them in New York or Pittsburg market the same hour, and the Netted Rock will bring from 30 cents to \$1.00 more money. WHY? Because the crate of Netted Rocks will be

packed full and tight and the melons will be hard, firm and brittle, while the other crates will be settled down, owing to the softness of the melons so that it will look like there was room for six to ten more cantaloupes in the crate, while the cantaloupes that are in it will be soft and spongy.

Does It Pay

To raise scrub horses, chickens, cattle or sheep?

No.

Then will it pay the grower to plant poor cantaloupe seed?

No.

Moral: Grow the best cantaloupe seeds your money will buy, no matter what they cost you, and you will prosper, while your neighbor that plants poor seed, will grow poor goods and get fifty cents per crate while you will be getting two dollars per crate.

Purity of Seeds.

Can a man keep his cantaloupe seeds pure and grow different strains on the same place?

I make the claim that they cannot. I claim and I can prove to any sane man that the pollen will mix on different cantaloupe fields one-fourth mile apart, and I firmly believe the pollen on the cantaloupe and cucumber will mix. To satisfy yourself try growing a patch of the Paul Rose and the Netted Gem in your garden save the seeds from them, and then, the next year, plant those seeds and you will find you have a mixture of the two strains.

Like Produces Like.

This is generally conceded to be true, and is true in many cases, but I will make the assertion, and stand pat on it without fear of truthful contradiction, that cantaloupe seed planted and grown in the south and east will, in one season, retrograde so much that, should seed be saved and grown again, they will produce a sleek, tasteless, sickly cantaloupe. Why this is so I am unable to say, but growers have tried it and it has proven to be true. Hence the necessity for pure seed being shipped to all states from Rocky Ford, for the best will only produce good cantaloupes one season.

How Many Crates to the Acre ?

On this subject I will be very frank for I am of the opinion that the Van Buskirk Netted Rock is the greatest yielder of any cantaloupe yet grown. My twenty acre field last year produced 252 crates to the acre. One day's picking from eight acres resulted in 370 crates being loaded in the refrigerator. The vines are so strong and vigorous it seems to make the pollen very productive and I am firm in the belief that they will produce one-third more crates to the acre than any other cantaloupes.

Humbugged!

The fact that cantaloupe seeds are cut and shipped from almost every station from Lawrence, Kansas, to Denver, Colorado, and all sold for Rocky Ford seeds, should be a warning to growers and should open their eyes to the fact that in order to get the Netted Rock Cantaloupe Seed they should order direct from headquarters, Rocky Ford, Colorado.

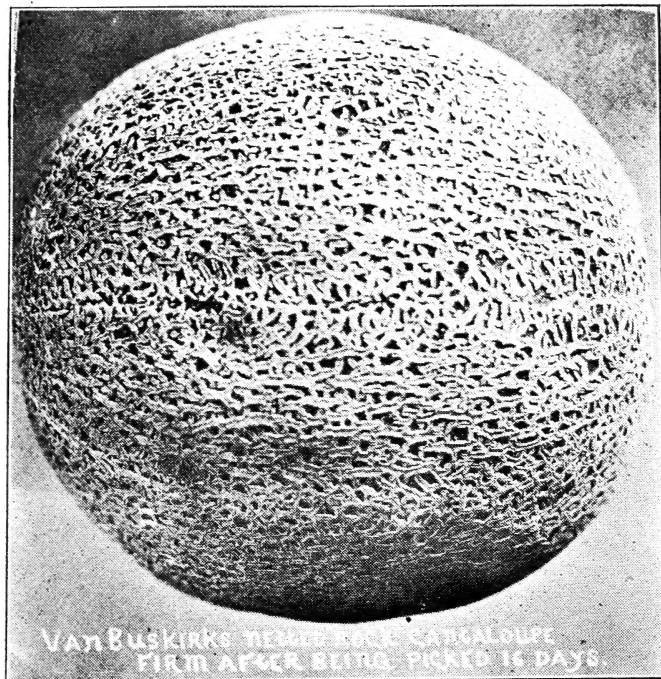
Japanese Sugar Boy Watermelon.

This is the sweetest Watermelon ever grown in America. Flesh is a beautiful Rose Red, the meat is firm, brittle, crisp and full of juice, as sweet as honey, and sweet to the green on the outer edge. Wherever introduced will be the favorite owing to its delicious flavor and extreme sweetness, very closely resembles the Kleckly Sweet in looks, but is a better shipper and the finest eater ever grown in America. No strings in the flesh; rind a very dark green; seeds snow white; weight from 20 to 52 pounds; extremely early and a splendid keeper.

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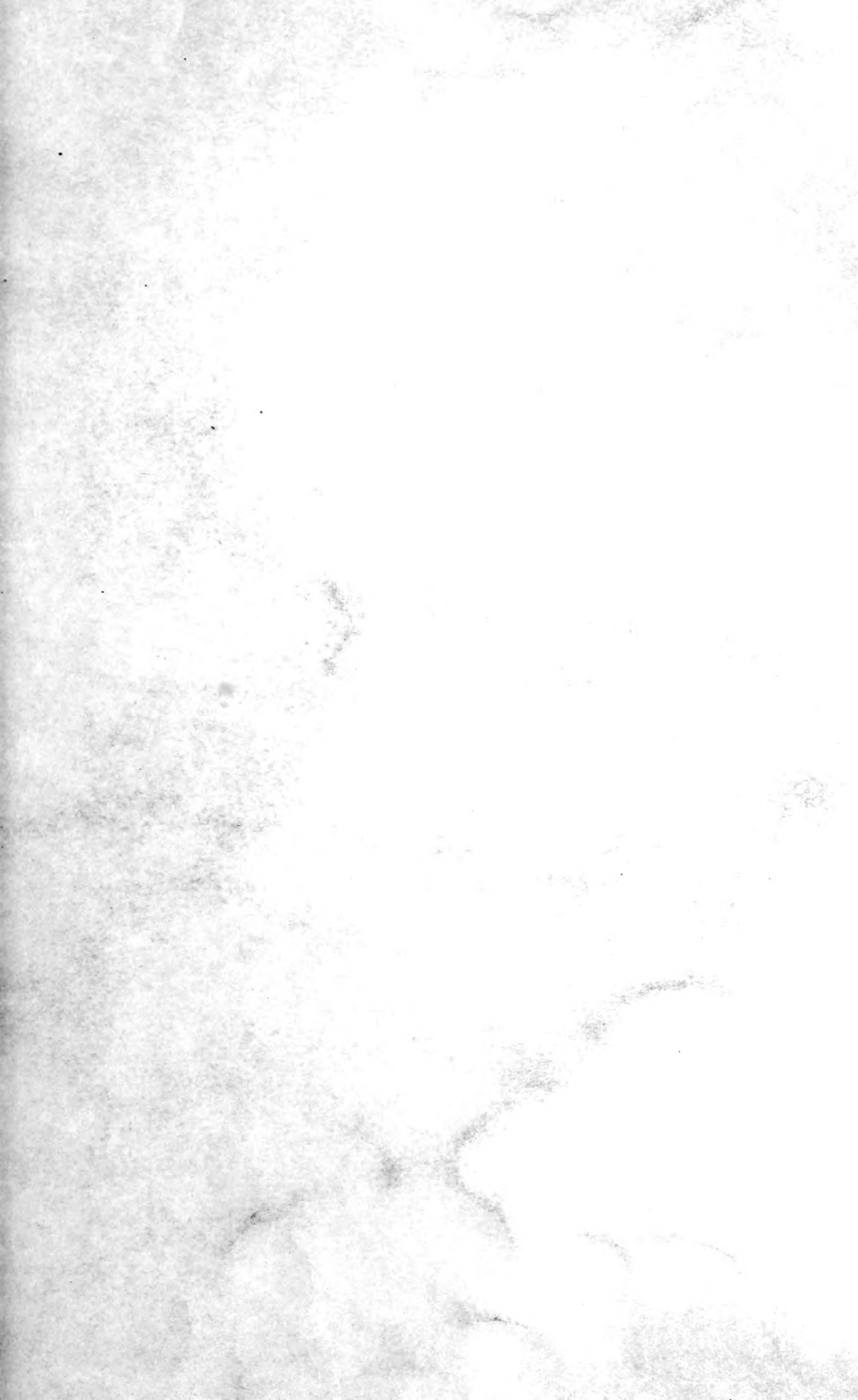
The Perfected Cantaloupe.

The editor of the Enterprise had the pleasure of examining one of Dr. VanBuskirk's Netted Rock Cantaloupes that had been picked from the vine fifteen days and had not been kept on ice one minute and to his surprise found the cantaloupe in its perfect state, hard, plump and apparently in good enough condition for the market. The Doctor has been working on this cantaloupe for five years trying to get it to its present perfect state, his object being to get a cantaloupe that would stand up on the market for many days, the flesh remaining hard and brittle and containing the proper amount of sugar and the musky flavor. In order to get all these essential qualities, he took the Pollock strain and crossed it with the Japanese strain, the cross producing the perfect shape and standard size cantaloupe which contains by sugar test more sugar than any other cantaloupe yet grown in this section of Colorado, and



the Doctor has named it "Van Buskirk's Netted Rock." He selected the "Netted Rock" on account of the cantaloupe being so solid and hard, resembling in substance and weight a rock more than a cantaloupe. The netting on this cantaloupe is the most perfect of any we have seen and completely covers the entire melon. The flesh being so thick, the seed cavity so small, it makes it a remarkable cantaloupe to ship long distances. This seems to be the essential thing for this country, as almost fifteen-sixteenths of our cantaloupes are shipped to New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago markets. The vines of this strain are extremely strong and vigorous and seem to be the nearest rust proof of any strain grown in the valley. Up to this date the vines are healthy and producing fine sweet standard size cantaloupes while almost every other field in this section has gone down, most of them quit yielding and what few are left are yielding nothing but ponies. Last season the Doctor sold some seed to a North Carolina man and he writes that he commenced shipping July 5th, and continued to ship up to August 28, his neighbors all quit shipping August 15. Here is a cantaloupe that it would be well for all growers to try. The great future in the cantaloupe industry in this section, is in growing one that when matured holds its hardness and flavor to be shipped to eastern markets. Last season from a twenty-five acre field the yield was 252 crates to the acre, percentage of ponies, 80 crates to the 1000. This year he has grown 20 acres, cutting the choice ones for his fancy seed trade.—Enterprise, Rocky Ford, Colo., Sept. 29, 1905.





I will not have a great many of these seeds to offer. If you want them, Book Your Order Now, to be shipped when you want them.

Crystal Wax Cucumbers

The greatest seller and the finest eater ever put on the market, is the history of the Japanese Crystal Wax Cucumber, almost identical in looks as the Long Green, but larger, sweeter, fewer seeds, more crisp and more brittle, will hold its green longer than any other cucumber; a great favorite for the table, owing to its having so few seeds and being so sweet and tender. Once introduced you cannot supply the demand for them. The supply of these seeds are limited, Book Your Order Now to be shipped when you want them.

For prices on these seeds call on or write the undersigned.

Yours for the Best Netted and Sweetest Cantaloupe on earth.

H. VAN BUSKIRK,

BOX 436

ROCKY FORD, COLO.

References as to my standing:—Olivet Bros., New York; Mercantile National Bank, Pueblo; Oriental Bank, N. Y.; Dun's Commercial Agency; Bradstreet Commercial Agency, and Snow & Church Commercial Agency.

